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**INITIATING CODE-A-SITE INVENTORY SYSTEM  
ON THE NICOLET NATIONAL FOREST**

**PRESENTED TO RECREATION MANAGEMENT  
SHORTCOURSE REVIEW COMMITTEE  
ATLANTA, GEORGIA  
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ABSTRACT

A Code-A-Site inventory system, which was developed by the Pacific Northwest Forest and Range Experiment Station, is being initiated on the Nicolet National Forest. This is a system for inventory of dispersed recreation sites that utilizes McBee punch cards to record inventoried data. Data thus collected and recorded will be available for future use such as financial planning for current and future fiscal years, decision making when Forest Goals and Objectives are established, inclusion in Recreation Opportunity Guide, and for Land Management Planning.

The Nicolet National Forest is located in northeastern Wisconsin. This area has several lakes and rivers which are recreation attractions to people from eastern and southeastern Wisconsin and northern Illinois. Because of the large metropolitan areas located within this area the Forest receives heavy year 'round recreation use.

Use occurs at developed recreation sites and at undeveloped or dispersed sites. These undeveloped sites are scattered throughout the Forest and are usually near a lake or river. People start visiting various spots and over a period of time an undeveloped site has emerged without facilities, planning, in many cases without maintenance, and with management needs.

This has created the situation as it now exists. We have many dispersed sites receiving an unknown amount and type of use. Location of these sites is known by some Ranger District personnel but is not recorded. Condition of most of these sites is unknown. Such items as need for sanitary and other facilities, erosion which is occurring, vegetation needing treatment, potential of the site, what alternatives exist for the site, and others are largely unknown.

Lack of information concerning dispersed sites affects many aspects of management. Increased emphasis on and demand for dispersed recreation creates a demand for knowledge of these sites. Budget planning needed precise data concerning management needs and costs. Visitors wanting to know where to go for a certain recreation opportunity created a need to know where these opportunities were. Land Management Planning

generated supply and demand figure needs for all recreation activities. With these needs a system was required which provided for inventory, data storage, and data retrieval. "Code-A-Site, A System for Inventory of Dispersed Recreational Sites in Roaded Areas, Back Country, and Wilderness, seemed to be a system which could be adopted and provide the information needed.

Code-A-Site was one topic of the Region Nine Recreation Staff Officers Meeting hosted by the Nicolet and attended by several Nicolet personnel. All District Rangers and Resource Assistants attended a field day which included a discussion of and actually coding a dispersed site. This was the introduction of Code-A-Site to most Nicolet personnel. Later, Code-A-Site was discussed at a Staff-Ranger meeting and a decision was made that Code-A-Site would be adopted and that inventory would be completed by September 30, 1981.

Code-A-Site is a system for inventory of dispersed recreation sites that uses McBee punch cards for data storage and retrieval. Data storage and retrieval provides for having previously recorded information available that can be used for current and future fiscal year budget planning, setting Forest goals and objectives, and in the Land Management Planning process.

McBee punch cards developed by the Pacific Northwest Forest and Range Experiment Station, as part of the Code-A-Site system, were obtained and then sent to the Districts for review, comments, and recommendations. District response was favorable to the system and numerous changes were recommended

for the items to be included on the card. The recommended changes were submitted to the Regional Office. The Regional Office would have cards printed that contained items needed in this Region.

Recommended changes were: (Original Code-A-Site card is in appendix)

Under item 1 eliminate backcountry.

Eliminate Item 10 "Other Sites"

Eliminate Item 12 "Firewood"

Eliminate Item 14 "Forage"

Under Item 16 "Area Attractions and Opportunities", eliminate "Horse Loading Ramp"

Under Item 16 "Area Attractions and Opportunities", add Camping, Picnicking, Boating, Swimming

Under Item 19 add Facility Condition with a punch for Satisfactory and Unsatisfactory

Eliminate Item 25 "Elevation"

Add Item "Type of Use" with 2 divisions "Overnight" and "Day Use"

Add Item "Work to be Done" with divisions as follows: "Erosion Control", "Facilities to Add", "Table", "Fireplace", "Toilet", "Other", "Maintenance of Facilities Needed"

Add Item "Erosion Work Needed"

Change "Site Numbering" to include all units, all tens, and up to four hundreds

Eliminate "Forest Code"

Reduce "District Code" to four punches

It is imperative that Forest users of the Code-A-Site system share an understanding of the definitions used. Therefore, a meeting is set for March 28, 1980 to review the Code-A-Site process and to discuss and agree on definitions of terms. This will assist in obtaining uniform inventory data. A part of this meeting will be to actually code at least one site.

this summer time will be spent with each District to check on inventory progress and assist if any problems are encountered.

Equipment and supplies are needed to start the process. Booklets describing the Code-A-Site process have been obtained from the Pacific Northwest Forest and Range Experiment Station. McBee punch cards are being obtained by the Regional Office. These cards will be adapted to conditions existing in the Region. A punch for punching the holes is available on each District. Sorting rods are also available on each District. Both of these items are from other McBee card systems used by the Forest. Storage containers are also available on the Districts. Tape can be used to correct a punching error.

**APPENDIX**



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1 FOREST CODE

DISTRICT CODE

MGMT. UNIT

SITE NUMBER

REGION FOREST DISTRICT

FOREST RANGE SECTION DOT SIGHT UNIT SITE NO

DATE  
CODED

CODED  
BY

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF SITE		
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MANAGEMENT NOTES		
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FUTURE MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS AND SITE COSTS		
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KEY USE THIS AREA WHEN SPECIFICS ARE REQUIRED OR TO RECORD ADDITIONAL DATA

④ 2nd SITE VEGETATION		
⑤ OFF-SITE VEGETATION		